



Robert Greene Sterne Edward J. Kessler Jorge A. Goldstein David K.S. Cornwell Robert W. Esmond Tracy-Gene G. Durkin Michele A. Cimbala Michael B. Ray Robert E. Sokohl Fric K. Steffe Michael Q. Lee Steven R. Ludwig John M. Covert Linda E. Alcom Robert C. Millonig Lawrence B. Bugaisky Donald J. Featherstone Michael V. Messinger

Judith U. Kim Timothy J. Shea, Jr. Patrick E. Garrett Heidi L. Kraus Edward W. Yee Albert L. Ferro Donald R. Banowit Peter A. Jackman Molly A. McCali Teresa U. Medler Jeffrey S. Weaver Kendrick P. Patterson Vincent L. Capuano Albert J. Fasulo II\* Eldora Ellison Floyd Thomas C. Fiala Brian J. Del Buono Virgil Lee Beaston

Kimberly N. Reddick Theodore A. Wood Elizabeth J. Haanes Bruce E. Chalker Bruce E. Chalker Joseph S. Ostroff Frank R. Cottingham Christine M. Lhuller Rae Lynn Prengaman Jane Shershenovich\* Lawrence J. Carroll\* George S. Bardmesser Daniel A. Klein\* Rodney G. Maze Jason D. Eisenberg Michael A. Specht Andrea J. Kamage Tracy L. Muller\* Jon E. Wright\*

July 2, 2003

LuAnne M. Yuricek\*

Registered Patent Agents • Nancy J. Leith Ann E. Summerfield Helene C. Carlson Helene C. Carlson Gaby L. Longsworth Matthew J. Dowd Aaron L. Schwartz Angelique G. Uy Mary B. Tung Katrina Y. Pei Bryan L. Skelton Robert A. Schwartzman John J. Figueroa Timothy A. Doyle Jennifer R. Mahalingappa

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment

Teresa A. Colella Jeffrey S. Lundgren Victoria S. Rutherford

<u>Of Counsel</u> Kenneth C. Bass III Lisa A. Dunner Evan R. Smith

\*Admitted only in Maryland \*Admitted only in Virginia •Practice Limited to Federal Agencies

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER: (202) 772-8643 **INTERNET ADDRESS:** AFERRO@SKGF.COM

Art Unit 3611

U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/474,127; Filed: December 29, 1999
For: Axle Driving Apparatus
Okada et al. Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re:

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111; and

2. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Albert L. Ferro

Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 44,679

Enclosures

::ODMA\MHODMA\SKGF DC1:151815:1 SKGF Rev. 2/15/02 dcw; 4/18/03 svb

Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox P.L.C. : 1100 New York Avenue, NW : Washington, DC 20005 : 202.371.2600 f 202.371.2540 : www.skgf.com